

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 024299

72

ORIGIN ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SAB-01 L-01 EB-03 INR-05 CIAE-00

NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 RSC-01 /040 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN.SMBELL:EMM

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P 032035Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 024299

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN, CO

SUBJECT: U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: PROTECTION OF
COLOMBIAN RIGHTS UNDER THE URRUTIA-THOMPSON
TREATY

1. AWARE OF SENATOR GUSTAVO BALCAZAR'S ACCESS TO PRESIDENT
LOPEZ, THE DEPUTY UNITED STATES TREATY NEGOTIATOR RAISED
THIS MATTER (A) TO REITERATE TO THE GOC ONCE MORE THAT
WE SHALL CONSULT ON COLOMBIA'S INTERESTS AT THE
APPROPRIATE TIME, AND (B) TO SUGGEST THAT A PROBLEM AS
TRICKY AS THIS HAD BEST BE HANDLED AS UNOBTRUSIVELY AS
POSSIBLE.

2. BALCAZAR SAID HE WOULD TELL LOPEZ THAT WE ARE KEEPING
COLOMBIA'S INTERESTS IN MIND AND VOLUNTEERED THAT HE
BELIEVED THE GOC WOULD BE AMENABLE TO "ALGUN ARREGLO
DISCRETO".

3. WE SHALL, OF COURSE, ,CONSULT, WITH COLOMBIA. BUT
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PAGE 02 STATE 024299

FIRST WE MUST TRY TO PRY SOME SORT OF CONCESSIONARY

POSITION OUT OF PANAMA, AND THAT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE UNTIL THE LAST STAGE OF NEGOTIATING TRADE-OFFS -- WITH ANY LUCK, IN MARCH OR APRIL. WHILE INSISTING THAT THIS IS NOT PANAMA'S PROBLEM, FOREIGN MINISTER TACK HAS AT LEAST AGREED ALREADY TO INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF IT ON THE NEGOTIATING AGENDA AND, MOREOVER, TO TRY TO BE "HELPFUL".

4. BALCAZAR CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THE MESSAGE. IN PAST YEARS, WHILE HE WAS GOVERNOR OF VALLE AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, THE USG USED HIM OFTEN AS A CHANNEL TO BOGOTA LEADERSHIP WITHOUT DISCOVERING DISTORTION. PERHAPS HIS RELIABILITY HAS LAPSED, OR PERHAPS LOPEZ DID SOME DISTORTING OF HIS OWN. KISSINGER

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